

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 /140 W

----- 064609

R 260716Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154

SECDEF WASHDC

CJCS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

COMUSSAG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: MANPOWER FOR FANK

REF: PHNOM PENH 10055/2021203Z SEPT 73

1. OUR PROPOSAL TO CREATE A JOINT STAFF FOR CONSCRIPTION HAS AT LEAST TEMPORARILY BOGGED DOWN IN KHMER POLITICS.
2. ON SEPTEMBER 22 SIRIK MATAK CIRCULATED A NOTE TO THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL STRONGLY URGING SAUKAM KHOY'S NOMINATION TO HEAD THE JOINT STAFF. ON SEPTEMBER 23 I BACKED UP SIRIK'S RECOMMENDATION WITH LON NOL, BUT GOT ONLY AN EVASIVE REPLY. SUBSEQUENTLY LON NOL AND FANK C IN C MAJGEN SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ MET, AND OBJECTIONS TO THE SAUKAM KHOY APPOINTMENT BAGAN TO APPEAR.
3. SOSTHENE TOLD US YESTERDAY SEPTEMBER 25 THAT HE FELT THAT HIS ORIGINAL SUPPORT FOR THE APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN HASTY. HE IS CONCERNED THAT SAUKAM KHOY MAY PROVE TO BE "TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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FORCEFUL". MOST IMPORTANT, SOSTHENE SAID, SUPPOSE

THAT SAUKAM KHOY'S EFFORT FAILS. THE CIVILIANS WOULD THEN ACCUSE THE ARMY OF HAVING BUNGLED, SINCE AS A LIEUTENANT GENERAL SAUKAM KHOY IS MORE IDENTIFIED WITH THE FANK THAN WITH THE SENATE. IN THAT EVENT THE FANK WOULD HAVE TO STEP IN AND DO THE JOB ITSELF; SOSTHENE SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO ASK THE FANK TO DO IT RIGHT NOW. WE REPLIED TO SOSTHENE (A) THAT THE FANK IS ALREADY WAY BEHIND IN ITS ADMINISTRATIVE WORK, NOTABLY IN THE PERSONNEL FIELD, AND DOESN'T HAVE THE ORGANIZATION LET ALONE THE POLITICAL CREDIT TO TAKE THE JOB ON; AND (B) THAT IF SAUKAM KHOY FAILS THERE MAY WELL NOT BE ANOTHER CHANCE, SINCE WITHOUT THE 30 THOUSAND NEW RECRUITS FANK WILL BE VULNERABLE TO AN INSURGENT DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE.

4. MEANWHILE, SIRIK MATAK HAS TALKED TO SAUKAM KHOY AND OBTAINED HIS AGREEMENT TO DO THE JOB IF NOMINATED. SIRIK HAS AGREED TO CARRY THE BALL NOW, AND TRY TO GET SOSTHENE INTO LINE.
ENDERS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: MANPOWER FOR FANK
TAGS: MILI, CB, (SAUKAM KHOY)
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